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luxuries" (p. 102). These facts may throw some light on the slow advance of some classes in wealth.

The purchasing power of a day's labor of ten hours which (on a scale of 100) was 74 in 1840, rose to 90.9 in 1860, to 110.2 in 1870, to 142.4 in 1879, and to 181 in 1892. In fifty years a day's labor had more than doubled in its purchasing power. "The average ten hours' wages in 1891 commanded about three times as much in the comforts and necessities of life (barring rent) as in 1865, and nearly two and one-half times as much as in 1840" (p. 86).

The monetary statistics are presented in useful form. Without in the least reflecting upon the value of the handbook, it may not be amiss to point out some deficiencies: (p. 33) no consumption of the precious metals in the arts is given for the world; (p. 37) it was hardly worth dignifying the refuted "Seven Financial Conspiracies" by giving them space; (p. 60) the supply of the precious metals is more than the visible stock of money; (p. 69) it would be well to indicate that the English quotations of silver are based on the fineness of the English standard, while ours are for fine silver; (p. 71) the coining value of silver as given in the world's production is wholly fictitious and valueless; (p. 91) the cost of production of silver is set at more than \$1 per ounce, and yet at less than seventy cents in the market more silver is being now produced than ever before. Minor errors are: (p. 75) designating the act of 1890 with the name "Bland;" and (p. 86) the rise of wages in 1872 to 153.2 per cent.

J. L. L.

Briefs for Debate on Current Political, Economic and Social Topics.

Edited by W. DuBOIS BROOKINGS and RALPH CURTIS RINGWALT. With an introduction by ALBERT BUSHNELL HART. New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1896. 8vo. pp. xlvii + 213.

THE oration, which played an important part in the college life of a generation or two ago, has been largely superseded by the debate or the argumentative composition. College men of today meet in the forensic as well as in the athletic arena. In a few universities the debating course has become a regular part of the curriculum and in many others the debating club is a flourishing institution. The present collection of briefs has grown out of the work done along this line at

Harvard and will prove valuable to all who are interested in debating. The introductory suggestions by Professor Hart are clear and to the point. They will prove helpful to those conducting as well as to those preparing debates.

The body of the work consists of seventy-five briefs on political, economic, educational, social, and miscellaneous subjects. This list includes almost every topic which has been up for discussion in recent years. For each topic the best general references are given as well as the special references for each point treated. The amount of labor thus saved to future debaters is very great. If the time saved in gathering material is spent in putting the arguments in the most effective manner we ought to see a great improvement in the art of debating and public speaking.

W. HILL.

Family Budgets: Being the Income and Expenses of Twenty-eight British Households. 1891-1894. Compiled for the Economic Club, with an Introduction. London: P. S. King & Son, 1896. 8vo. pp. 76.

THIS little book may be briefly described as a series of snap shots at English family life. The records it contains, covering only brief periods of time, give us little more, as its compilers admit, than instantaneous photographs of a small number of families. The book, however, represents a commendable effort to apply the methods of observation to the study of the social molecule. It is a result, as we are told, "of an effort to study family life in Great Britain through details of family expenditure." Besides the statistical tables setting forth this expenditure, there is in connection with each study a short story written by the observer, or by the head of the family himself, of the life and history of the family represented. These stories containing, as the most extended of them do, the history of the family, its moral circumstances, its hygiene, its means and mode of existence, lend a strong human interest to the book. A bare table of income and expenditure may awaken an economic interest, but it does not produce the same feeling that is called forth when we are told that the head of the family "has never been in a museum, although born in London. He is sensitive to the feeling that in any public building he or his children might be looked down upon as having 'no right to be there' because they are not smartly dressed" (p. 22). The book